



GREATER BOSTON
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Annual Celebrations, Unique Festivals, and Arts/Cultural Events

First Night/First Day: Celebrate First Night (December 31) Boston style! Beautiful Copley Square will be First Night's new home – witnessing three Family Processions, ice sculptures, live entertainment, a dance party and a countdown to the Square's pyrotechnics at midnight. Earlier fireworks take place at 7pm on Boston Common. Return to Copley Square on New Year's Day for more music, ice sculptures, warming stations, and Hot Chocolate for all the welcome in the New Year! firstnightboston.org

Boston Wine Festival: The longest wine festival in the country, running from *January 11 through March 29, 2019* the Boston Wine Festival at the Boston Harbor Hotel features an all-star lineup of intimate winemaker hosted dinners, seminars and receptions. bostonwinefestival.net

Black History Month: Every *February* Boston hosts an array of events in celebration of Black History Month, including walking tours of Beacon Hill's Black Heritage Trail, concerts, commemorative events, theater productions, and lectures and exhibits at locations such as the Museum of African-American History and the Boston Public Library. The Freedom Trail Foundation operates its African-American Patriots Tour every February. afroammuseum.org

Chinese New Year: Chinese New Year in *February* is the largest festival and celebration in Boston's Chinatown, with lion dances, music, and great food. This occasion marks the beginning of the lunar calendar year. 2019 is the Year of the Pig and 2020 will be the Year of the Rat. bostonusa.com

St. Patrick's Day: Also known as Evacuation Day in Boston, *March 17* is always a festive occasion in one of America's most Irish cities. Many cultural and culinary events happen alongside St. Patrick's Day, highlighted by the St. Patrick's Day Parade in South Boston. 2019 date is Sunday, March 17; and March 15, 2020. bostonusa.com



Dine Out Boston: The GBCVB's biannual dining special in *March and August* affords patrons a wonderful chance to dine at over 170 Boston area restaurants at price-points well below the norm. Previously known as Restaurant Week, the promotion began in 2001 and was re-born as Dine Out Boston in 2014. *2019 Dates: March 3-8 & 10-15 & August (dates TBD).* dineoutboston.com

LGBT Film Festival: The Boston LGBT Film Festival occurs in *late March/early April and* celebrates, displays and distributes work by and for LGBT media makers – work that entertains, enriches and enlightens all audiences in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and allied communities. The annual Festival screenings showcase international, US, and local film, video, and other media, fostering a greater sense of awareness and community among LGBT and LGBT-friendly audiences. bostonlgbtfilmfest.net

Red Sox Opening Day: The local nine take the field in *early April* at America's oldest ballpark, Fenway Park, as the city shakes off winter and welcomes the promise of another beautiful spring and summer. The Boston Red Sox, 8-time World Series Champs, have enjoyed a great run of success in the 21st century. *2019 Home Opener: April 9 vs Toronto Blue Jays.* redsox.com

Cambridge Science Festival: The Cambridge Science Festival, the first of its kind in the United States, happens over April School Vacation and is a celebration showcasing the leading edge in science, technology, engineering and math. A multifaceted, multicultural event every spring, the Cambridge Science Festival makes science accessible, interactive and fun! 2019 Dates: April 12-21. cambridgesciencefestival.org

Patriots' Day: Commemorating the Battles of Lexington and Concord, Patriots' Day is a state holiday in Massachusetts and involves a number of events and reenactments, including those at the Lexington Green and the Old North Bridge in Concord. Patriots' Day occurs on the Third Monday in April. nps.gov

Boston Marathon: The Boston Marathon, the world's oldest and most famous annual marathon, dates back to 1897 and is a Patriots' Day tradition in Boston. Weaving through Hopkinton, Natick, Wellesley, and Brookline – before culminating in Boston's Back Bay – the Boston Marathon route includes many great areas for spectator viewing and is among the city's proudest traditions. 2019 Date: April 15. baa.org



ArtWeek Boston: ArtWeek Boston is an initiative of the Citi Performing Arts Center, whose mission is to be a champion for nonprofit innovation in Boston and provide arts and entertainment to the greater community. ArtWeek Boston is now an annual event happening over 10 days throughout the Commonwealth every spring, and featuring unexpected and creative experiences that are interactive or offer behind-the-scenes access to artists or the creative process. 2019 Dates: April 26-May 5. artweekboston.org



Boston Calling: Boston Calling has moved to Allston!! The eclectic festival debuted in 2013 and has welcomed performances by more than 150 artists including Mumford & Sons, Beck, Vampire Weekend, Jack Johnson, The Pixies, The Avett Brothers, Alabama Shakes and more! In 2017 the event debuted in Allston at the Harvard Athletic Complex and featured and expanded lineup including comedy. 2019 Dates: May 24-26. bostoncalling.com

Cambridge Arts River Festival: Six dynamic festival stages showcase local music, theater and dance. Community tables, poetry and storytelling tents, interactive areas (including a chalk art tribute to beloved icon Sidewalk Sam), roving performances, and the revival of Peoples Sculpture Racing combine to make the Cambridge Arts River Festival a vibrant celebration of the arts in Cambridge. 2019 Date: June 1. cambridgema.gov

Jimmy Fund Scooper Bowl: The Scooper Bowl is a three-day event in early June that dishes out 20 tons of the summer's finest ice cream to more than 50,000 ice cream lovers from across the nation. Made possible by the generous contributions of the industry's largest ice cream companies, the Scooper Bowl has raised more than \$4.5 million in the past 32 years for cancer research and patient care at the world-renowned Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. 2019 Dates: June 4-6. www.scooperbowl.org

Boston Pride: Boston Pride Week happens in early June and creates change and progress in society by embracing our community's diverse history, culture, and identities, promoting community engagement and inclusivity, and striving for visibility and respect in unity. Boston Pride produces events and activities to achieve inclusivity, equality, respect, and awareness in Greater Boston and beyond. Annual events of Pride week include the Flag raising ceremony, Pride Parade, and Pride Festival. 2019 Pride Parade Dates: June 8. bostonpride.org

Dragon Boat Festival: 30-40 teams from the US and Canada compete over a 500-meter course in an energetic race to the finish line. The teams paddle in sleek, colorful 39-foot-Hong Kong-style dragon boats. Along with dragon

boat races, the festival also presents performances from various Asian cultures, Asian food, and arts and crafts representing traditions of this ancient Chinese celebration. 2019 Dates: June 8-9. bostondragonboat.org

North End Feasts and Festivals: Boston's oldest neighborhood, the North End, plays host to feasts and processions almost every weekend, starting in early June, throughout the summer months. Highlights include the Madonna Della Cava Feast, St. Anthony's Feast, and the Fisherman's Feast. northendfeasts.com



Boston Race Amity Festival: Drawing on the 400-year-old tradition of cross racial/cultural friendships as a catalyst for equity and access in America, this celebration brings metro Boston's diverse citizens to a festival for the human family, moving us towards E PLuribus Unum. The 9th annual festival occurs on the Greenway June 9. boston.gov

Free Fun Fridays: Free Fun Fridays is sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation and offers visitors no cost admission to many of the most treasured cultural venues in Massachusetts from late June through late August. 70 museums and cultural venues participate over 10 weeks of fun every summer! www.highlandstreet.org/programs/free-fun-fridays



Harborfest: Boston Harborfest is a Fourth of July Festival that showcases the colonial and maritime heritage of the cradle of the American Revolution: *The Historic City of Boston*. The festival strives to honor and remember the past, celebrate the present, and educate the future with reenactments, concerts, historical tours and much, much more. Over 200 Daily Events during the Festival are concentrated in Boston's historic downtown and waterfront districts. bostonharborfest.com

Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular: The Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular is a premier Independence Day celebration. Each year, since its inception, hundreds of thousands of people come from all over the country to the banks of the Charles River to celebrate America's birthday with the Boston Pops and a scintillating fireworks show! july4th.org

Taste of Cambridge: Each year foodies descend upon the Taste of Cambridge to sample the delicious, creative, healthy and award-winning cuisine that comprises our city – one of the most widely recognized restaurant destinations in the area. The Taste of Cambridge transforms University Park Common and Sidney Street into a lush haven for gastronomical and gustatory indulgences of the highest order. 2019 Date: TBD. tasteofcambridge.com

Boston Landmarks Orchestra Esplanade Concert Series: Made up of some of Boston's most accomplished professional musicians, the Orchestra presents free concerts every Wednesday from July through August at the DCR's Hatch Shell along the Esplanade adjacent to the Charles River. It also offers family concerts and educational programs at no cost in the neighborhoods of Greater Boston. landmarksorchestra.org

Shakespeare on the Common: In 2019 the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company puts on its 24th season of free Shakespeare plays on historic Boston Common. Nightly performances (excluding Mondays) occur over 2 weeks in late July and early August. Past performances have included great works such as *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Othello*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 2019 Dates TBD. commshakes.org

Revere Beach National Sand-Sculpting Festival: The Revere Beach National Sand Sculpting Festival draws over 800,000 spectators. The event is hosted by the Revere Beach Partnership, a non-profit organization. The event is free and open to the public and draws crowds from all over New England. 2019 Dates: July TBD reverebeach.com

Boston Greenfest: Greenfest is the region's largest multicultural environmental music festival and is a celebration of life and possibility, providing you with ideas and experiences that can shape your life and the life of your community. The goal is to inform EVERYONE as to the many ways green living can make a positive impact on the world, city, neighborhoods and each of us. The three days have something of value for everyone - the festival is convenient, and free. *2019 Dates: August 2-4*. bostongreenfest.org

Boston Seafood Festival: Entering its 5th year, the Boston Seafood Festival happens in early August on Fish Pier and aims to educate the media and public about sustainable fisheries and the fishing industry, including its history and the importance of wild harvests. *2019 Date: August 4*. bostonseafoodfestival.org

Boston Jazz Fest: Each summer the Boston Jazz Fest pays homage to the genre's African American roots and also draws together many of the most innovative and exciting contemporary jazz artists from around the globe in a day of musical brotherhood. *2019 date: August 30-31* bostonjazzfest.org



Boston Arts Festival: More than 75 local artists and a dozen bands gather at Christopher Columbus Park to perform outside on 2 stages. Family activities and performing arts come together on the waterfront for a fun and interactive late summer experience. *2019 Dates: TBD*. thebostonartsfestival.com

Boston Local Food Festival: For one spectacular day each year, SBN transforms the Rose Kennedy Greenway and the City of Boston into the nation's largest local & sustainable food hub! Boston Local Food Festival is a free outdoor festival that showcases farmers, local restaurants, food trucks, specialty food producers, fisher folks, and organizations focusing on healthy food and fitness from New England. The festival also features lively chef & DIY demos, a seafood throwdown competition, diverse music and performances, family fun zone and more. *2019 Date: September 15*. bostonlocalfoodfestival.com

Berklee Beantown Jazz Festival: The Beantown Jazz Festival is Boston's biggest block party—a free, annual outdoor concert open to the public that has delighted hundreds of thousands of music lovers over the years with its host of jazz, Latin, blues, funk, and groove performances, along with an array of food vendors and free activities for kids. Each year, the festival is *the* place to be in Boston on the last Saturday in September as the community comes together in a bond forged in the joy of great live music. *2018 Date: September 29*. berklee.edu

HUBWEEK: A collaborative, multi-day innovation festival sponsored by MGH, Boston Globe, Harvard and MIT, HUBWeek will return to for a fifth installment in October 2019. More details on programming and events to come! hubweek.org

Head of the Charles Regatta: Since 1965, the Head of the Charles Regatta has brought thousands of rowers each year to the Charles River to compete in the largest 2-day regatta in the world. More than 11,000 rowers from around the world will compete in the 53rd Head of the Charles Regatta on *October 19 & 20, 2018*. The race attracts up to 400,000 spectators who will line the banks of the Charles River to cheer the rowers on! hocr.org



Boston Book Festival: The Boston Book Festival celebrates the power of words to stimulate, agitate, unite, delight, and inspire by holding year-round events culminating in an annual, free Festival that promotes a culture of reading and ideas and enhances the vibrancy of our city. *2019 Date: October 12*. bostonbookfest.org

Thanksgiving: From Plimoth Plantation to Old Sturbridge Village, Massachusetts pays homage to our Pilgrim forbears and celebrates the Thanksgiving holiday in style. *2019 Date: Thursday, November 21*. Make sure to look for dining deals at bostonusa.com.

Boston Christmas Festival: (Fri., Sat. Sun/first weekend in November) An annual favorite for all ages, the Boston Christmas Festival, with its popular Gingerbread House Competition, is a blockbuster event for a day trip or longer visit to Boston. With 350 exhibitors, this award-winning show is the largest arts and crafts festival in New England, and features handcrafted gifts, holiday decorations, jewelry, clothing, pottery, folk art, delicious foods to buy and sample. Purchases are made directly from the artisans so prices are reasonable and suit everybody's budget.

Mayor's Holiday: ArtsBoston, in partnership with Mayor Martin J. Walsh, the City of Boston, and the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau, put on this eight-week celebration of the area's performing arts featuring thousands of half-priced tickets to over 130 holiday shows throughout Boston and beyond. 2019 Dates: TBD.
MayorsHoliday.com

Holiday Pops: A holiday season celebration with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops transforms historic Symphony Hall into a magical place for all ages, featuring traditional Pops sing-a-longs and a visit from Saint Nick himself! Your conductor is Keith Lockhart and the Pops orchestra is joined by The Tangelwood Festival Chorus. 2019 Dates: TBD. bso.org



Boston Tea Party Reenactment: Presented by Old South Meeting House and the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, the Annual Boston Tea Party Reenactment is a chance for the public to join in on one of Boston's most iconic protests. Re-enactors from across New England come together on December 16 to tell the story of the Boston Tea Party and dramatize the evening of December 16, 1773. bostontepartyship.com